

REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 21st September 1895.

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		ASSAM PAPERS.	
		Nil.	

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>					
1	"Abodh Bodhini" ...	Calcutta	About 677		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Ditto	5,000	13th September 1895.	
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	20,000	14th ditto.	
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	.....	17th ditto.	
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	4,000	13th ditto.	
5	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	.....	14th ditto.	
6	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	11th ditto.	
7	"Samay" ...	Ditto	4,000	13th ditto.	
8	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	3,000	14th ditto.	
9	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	800	16th ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika" ...	Ditto	200		
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika" ...	Ditto	200	12th and 15th to 19th September 1895.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	500	16th September 1895.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	1,000	12th, 14th, 16th and 19th September 1895.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	800	12th September 1895.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	9,000	16th ditto.	
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto	.....	7th ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Dainik Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	.....	10th, 11th, 13th, and 15th September 1895.	
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Ditto	.....	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide" ...	Ditto	About 400	12th September 1895.	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi" ...	Ditto	300	8th and 15th September 1895.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	500		
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	298		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	350 to 400	10th September 1895.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	500	15th ditto.	
3	"Darsak" ...	Ditto	.....	15th ditto.	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	754	13th ditto.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna	350		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad	280	11th September 1895.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore	200		
3	"Pratikar" ...	Ditto	603	13th ditto.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.	
URIYA.						
Monthly.						
ORISSA DIVISION.						
1	"Brahma " ...	Cuttack ...	.....		Only six copies have been issued since the paper was received in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered. This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Indradhanu " ...	Ditto ...	.....		
3	"Shikshabandhu " ...	Ditto ...	.....		
4	"Utkalprabha " ...	Mayurbhunj ...	3			
Weekly.						
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini " ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....		
2	"Samvad Vahika " ...	Balasore ...	190			
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad " ...	Ditto ...	309			
4	"Utkal Dipika " ...	Cuttack ...	412			
HINDI.						
Monthly.						
PATNA DIVISION.						
1	"Bihar Bandhu " ...	Bankipur ...	500	July 1895.		
Weekly.						
1	"Aryavarta " ...	Dinapur ...	1,000			
URDU.						
Weekly.						
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch " ...	Bankipur ...	500	22nd and 29th August 1895.		
2	"Gaya Punch " ...	Gaya ...	400			
3	"Mehre Monawar " ...	Muzaffarpur ...	150			
BENGALI.						
Weekly.						
1	"Bagura Darpan " ...	Bogra ...	.....		11th September 1895.
2	"Hindu Ranjika " ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	283			
3	"Rangpur Diprakash " ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	300			
HINDI.						
Monthly.						
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika." ...	Darjeeling ...	150	September 1895.	It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers, and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.	
BENGALI.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Kasipur Nivasi " ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	280			
Weekly.						
1	"Charu Mihir " ...	Mymensingh ...	900	10th September 1895.		
2	"Dacca Prakash " ...	Dacca ...	450	15th ditto.		
3	"Saraswat Patra " ...	Ditto ...	250	14th ditto.		
4	"Vikrampur " ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ..	500	12th ditto.		
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.						
Weekly.						
1	"Dacca Gazette " ...	Dacca ...	500	16th September 1895.		
BENGALI.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Tripura Prakash " ...	Comilla ...	.....		
Weekly.						
1	"Sansodhini " ...	Chittagong ...	120			
BENGALI.						
Fortnightly.						
ASSAM.						
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi " ...	Sylhet ...	.....		

No.	Name of Passenger	Rank or Profession	Age	Sex	Color	Place of Birth	Place of Residence	Occupation	Remarks
1	John Smith	Seaman	25	M	W	England	London	Seaman	
2	James Brown	Seaman	30	M	W	Scotland	Glasgow	Seaman	
3	William Jones	Seaman	28	M	W	Ireland	Dublin	Seaman	
4	Robert Taylor	Seaman	22	M	W	Wales	Cardiff	Seaman	
5	Thomas White	Seaman	35	M	W	France	Paris	Seaman	
6	Charles Black	Seaman	20	M	W	Germany	Berlin	Seaman	
7	Edward Green	Seaman	27	M	W	Austria	Vienna	Seaman	
8	George Hall	Seaman	32	M	W	Prussia	Breslau	Seaman	
9	Henry King	Seaman	24	M	W	Denmark	Copenhagen	Seaman	
10	Frederick Lee	Seaman	29	M	W	Norway	Oslo	Seaman	
11	Alfred Scott	Seaman	26	M	W	Sweden	Stockholm	Seaman	
12	Harold Adams	Seaman	23	M	W	Finland	Helsinki	Seaman	
13	Walter Baker	Seaman	31	M	W	Poland	Warsaw	Seaman	
14	Arthur Clark	Seaman	28	M	W	Czechoslovakia	Prague	Seaman	
15	Benjamin Evans	Seaman	25	M	W	Hungary	Budapest	Seaman	
16	Samuel Foster	Seaman	33	M	W	Romania	Bucharest	Seaman	
17	John Gibson	Seaman	21	M	W	Serbia	Belgrade	Seaman	
18	William Harris	Seaman	29	M	W	Croatia	Zagreb	Seaman	
19	Robert Hill	Seaman	27	M	W	Slovenia	Ljubljana	Seaman	
20	Thomas Young	Seaman	24	M	W	Yugoslavia	Belgrade	Seaman	
21	Charles King	Seaman	30	M	W	Greece	Athens	Seaman	
22	Edward Lee	Seaman	26	M	W	Turkey	Istanbul	Seaman	
23	George Scott	Seaman	22	M	W	Italy	Rome	Seaman	
24	Henry Adams	Seaman	28	M	W	Spain	Madrid	Seaman	
25	Frederick Baker	Seaman	25	M	W	Portugal	Lisbon	Seaman	
26	Alfred Clark	Seaman	31	M	W	France	Paris	Seaman	
27	Benjamin Evans	Seaman	27	M	W	Germany	Berlin	Seaman	
28	Samuel Foster	Seaman	24	M	W	Austria	Vienna	Seaman	
29	John Gibson	Seaman	32	M	W	Prussia	Breslau	Seaman	
30	William Harris	Seaman	29	M	W	Denmark	Copenhagen	Seaman	
31	Robert Hill	Seaman	26	M	W	Norway	Oslo	Seaman	
32	Thomas Young	Seaman	23	M	W	Sweden	Stockholm	Seaman	
33	Charles King	Seaman	30	M	W	Finland	Helsinki	Seaman	
34	Edward Lee	Seaman	27	M	W	Poland	Warsaw	Seaman	
35	George Scott	Seaman	24	M	W	Czechoslovakia	Prague	Seaman	
36	Henry Adams	Seaman	31	M	W	Hungary	Budapest	Seaman	
37	Frederick Baker	Seaman	28	M	W	Romania	Bucharest	Seaman	
38	Alfred Clark	Seaman	25	M	W	Serbia	Belgrade	Seaman	
39	Benjamin Evans	Seaman	32	M	W	Croatia	Zagreb	Seaman	
40	Samuel Foster	Seaman	29	M	W	Slovenia	Ljubljana	Seaman	
41	John Gibson	Seaman	26	M	W	Yugoslavia	Belgrade	Seaman	
42	William Harris	Seaman	33	M	W	Greece	Athens	Seaman	
43	Robert Hill	Seaman	30	M	W	Turkey	Istanbul	Seaman	
44	Thomas Young	Seaman	27	M	W	Italy	Rome	Seaman	
45	Charles King	Seaman	24	M	W	Spain	Madrid	Seaman	
46	Edward Lee	Seaman	31	M	W	Portugal	Lisbon	Seaman	
47	George Scott	Seaman	28	M	W	France	Paris	Seaman	
48	Henry Adams	Seaman	25	M	W	Germany	Berlin	Seaman	
49	Frederick Baker	Seaman	32	M	W	Austria	Vienna	Seaman	
50	Alfred Clark	Seaman	29	M	W	Prussia	Breslau	Seaman	

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

Al Punch of the 22nd August has heard from a Turkish officer that Russia and France have assured the Sultan that the Armenian reforms demanded are unnecessary, and that they have withdrawn their demand. The Turkish journals are sure that the new English ministry will not consider itself competent to push on the Armenian question to a solution. Egypt would have been evacuated by the English long before had not Jawad Pasha, the ex-Premier of Turkey, supported England's policy. Said Pasha, the new premier, it is believed, will not let Egypt die without one effort to recover her independence. A talk is going on in the Golden Horn to open the evacuation question as soon as peace is restored in Armenia.

AL PUNCH,
Aug. 22nd, 1895.

2. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 15th September upholds the policy of permanently establishing British influence in Chitral on the following grounds:—

DACCA PRAKASH,
Sept. 15th, 1895.

(1) The Chitral expedition has cost the Indian exchequer two crores and twenty lakhs of rupees. After incurring so much expense, it will not be wise to give up Chitral.

(2) The evacuation of Chitral may necessitate further expeditions into that country in future. Its annexation will avert that danger.

(3) Lord George Hamilton is right in saying that Chitral may be defended without increasing the force of the Indian army. The Indian army should be stationed chiefly in those parts of the frontiers, which are likely to be first invaded by a Russian army.

(4) The stationing of European soldiers in Chitral is desirable on various grounds. Chitral is a cold country, and its climate will suit the European soldiers best. The absence of the European soldiers from the interior of the country will save native men and women from being killed and insulted by them. There will also be no cow-killing in the interior of the country. It is to be expected that the new Secretary of State will make the Indian Government station all the European soldiers in Chitral and other parts of the frontiers.

(5) The annexation of Chitral will make British territories in India almost conterminous with Russian territories in Asia. This will serve to make the British Government more cautious and considerate in its treatment of the Indian people.

(6) The extension of the British territories in India is sure to give the astute Bengali an extensive field for enterprise.

(7) The annexation of Chitral will make the sweet cold climate fruits which grow in Chitral in abundance more cheap in India.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. The *Charu Mihir* of the 10th September says that the report of the Assistant Surgeon that Prasanna, a teacher of the Dhala School, died in Kaotkhali in the Mymensingh town from natural causes, and the police investigation in the case have not satisfied the public, who strongly suspect that the man's death was the result of foul play. In order to assist the police in finding out the true cause of death, the writer will publish the following:—

CHARU MIHIR,
Sept. 10th, 1895.

On the 29th August last, Prasanna Chandra came from Dhala to Mymensingh in the afternoon. At the railway station he was met by Bagala Charan Majumdar, an amla of one of the zamindars of Dhala. He was also seen by Kalimohan Ray just before dusk the same evening near the thana ghat. Prasanna was then going towards the south; he was dressed in *dhuti*, *shirt*, *chudder*, and shoes. The next morning some drug sellers from Barisal, while staying in their boat near Kaotkhali, heard the groans of a man proceed from the jungle near Kaisa. A man was ploughing the land near by, and the drug sellers calling to him told him to inform the chaukidar, as the voice was that of a dying man. It was evident that life was not yet extinct. On the Saturday next, on the bank of the river, opposite to Balipara ferry ghat, one Banga Bhattacharyya and some other people met a constable, who told them that after

he had given the dying man some water to drink, he vomitted blood, and expired. But it is said that the constable does not admit all this now. Prasanna was the holder of a decree against one Pukuria Manjee of Balipara ferry ghat. The man used at times to visit a relation of his at Dhala. The circumstance that when his dead body was found, Prasanna was dressed simply in a *dhuti*, and a pack of sacred thread round his neck, makes his death specially suspicious. If his death was natural, why was his dead body found in a jungle? And where had his shirt, *chudder*, and shoes gone? What also was the cause of the blister marks on his body? The Assistant Surgeon's report has really astounded everybody. It is to be hoped that the Magistrate will employ able police officers or bring over detectives from Calcutta to investigate the case.

CHARU MIHIR,
Sept. 10th, 1895.

4. The same paper says that Babu Rajendralal Bose, Head-constable of the Ghatal outpost in the Mymensingh district, being sick, applied to Mr. Thomas, District Superintendent of Police, for leave in July last. On being refused the leave he continued on duty. But when at length his disease got fatal, he left for Calcutta for treatment without leave, and there he died shortly after. Does Mr. Thomas repent for being the cause of a man's death?

SAHACHAR,
Sept. 11th, 1895.

5. The *Sahachar* of the 11th September has the following:—
Many people may be misled by the credit which the Bengal Police has taken to itself in its Administration Report for 1894 and the praise which has been bestowed upon it by the Lieutenant-Governor in his resolution thereupon. But in spite of such a rose-coloured report and resolution, people, who know anything of the mufassal, will admit that the mufassal police requires much improvement.

The authorities may think otherwise, but so far as the writer's information goes he will not be wide of the mark if he says, that the police is the real ruler in the mufassal. The higher authorities, who write reports, never endeavour to learn how far the subject matter of their reports is based on facts. The lower police officers, as a rule, look solely to their own interests in all that they do. It is their interest to submit returns showing decrease of crime within their respective jurisdictions, and they invariably do so. As a consequence, many police darogas do not entertain many of the complaints which are brought to them, and often report crimes of a heinous character as less serious offences. Each daroga has a large area within his jurisdiction, and his only assistants in the work of detecting and reporting crimes in the villages are the village chaukidars, whose duty consists in going round their respective beats once within twenty-four hours. The chaukidars also know that so long as they can please the daroga and his underlings by presents, they are quite safe, no matter whether they discharge their duties properly or not. Report a crime to the thana, the police will do nothing unless you point out the culprit too. Whenever the police takes upon itself to arrest a criminal of its own motion, it is sure to send up an innocent man and get up evidence against him. Cases like that of Iswar Napit of Howrah, though less frequent now-a-days, are not altogether things of the past. Crime, on the other hand, has vastly increased in the mufassal, and in very few cases can the police trace the culprits.

The Inspector-General of Police has endeavoured to prove the popularity of the police by referring to the fact that whenever a proposal for removing a thana is made, the people of the locality invariably memorialise Government against its removal. But Mr. Henry would not have made so much of this fact if he had known that the objection against removal arises not from the popularity of the police, but partly from the circumstance that the police do not, for fear of easy detection, commit oppressions upon people who reside near a thana, and partly from a fear that the removal of the thana will make *badmashes* rampant. Let Mr. Henry enquire and he will learn the truth of this and other statements of his.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Sept. 12th, 1895.

6. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 12th September says that a great sensation prevails among the Musalmans of Bombay on account of Government's indiscriminate massacre of Musalmans on the occasion of the late Gunpati procession at Dhulia. A general Muhammadan rising is apprehended in Bombay.

A Muhammadan insurrection
feared in Bombay.

7. Referring to the Madras case the *Hitavadi* of the 13th September observes as follows:—

The police.

Many will doubt whether they really live in the peaceful British dominion on penetrating a little into the heart of the country. It is doubtful whether, even under Nero, there was such oppression in the Roman Empire as is now committed in some places in India. True it is, that in former times there was oppression of the weak by the strong in India. But in those times, when the oppression became too grievous, the weak could check their oppressors by combining. But no one can do this now. Everybody trembles at the mighty prowess of the English Government, and if any body commits any oppression in the name of that Government—if any officer tramples upon a poor subject—the people do not venture to take the law into their own hands. If the oppressed subject seeks redress at the hands of Government, he fails to obtain it in many cases for want of money and owing to the great power of the police.

Government has paved the way for such oppression by increasing the power of the police and by weakening the people. Theft and dacoity have considerably diminished in this country, and *thugs* and *lathials* have given up their former professions. But Government fails to see that its keepers of the peace are breakers of the peace, that they are more skilled in depriving people of their property than thieves, that they are more cruel than dacoits, that they are greater adepts in cheating than thugs and more terrible than *lathials*. These men are maintained with Government money and they are strong in the strength of Government. It is to be regretted that Government should not take proper steps to check the abuse by the police of its great powers.

8. The *Sanjivani* of the 14th September complains of the conduct of the District Superintendent of Police, Sibsagar. He

The District Superintendent of Police, Sibsagar.

became recently offended with a Police Sub-Inspector. The poor Sub-Inspector had not done anything so very wrong as to merit an open punishment, and so he has been compelled to take leave for a year.

9. The *Darsak* of the 15th September has the following:—

The new chaukidari system.

All the measures, which the Government has of late adopted with a view to reform the village police in Bengal, have served to make it quite independent of the village people, and to bring it more and more under the direct control of the district authorities. The Government, of course, has all along been actuated by the best of motives in preventing the village police from being on intimate terms with the village people. It thinks that such intimacy is very likely to induce the village police not to report to the higher police authorities the crimes which the village people may commit, so it has freed the village police from all possible obligations to the village people, so that it might do its duty unhampered by any private or self-regarding considerations. This policy has, however, proved a mistaken policy, and since the village police has been made a part and parcel of the Bengal Police crime in the villages has increased rather than diminished.

Under the old system, the village chaukidar enjoyed his *chakran* land, and was also a happy recipient of gifts on occasions of religious ceremonies and festivals. He had thus to depend upon the good graces of the village people, to whom he, therefore, held himself responsible for a proper discharge of his duties. This sense of responsibility made him keep his watch and go his rounds regularly. And if he ever failed to perform his duty, he had to explain his conduct before the village headmen. Under the present system, however, the village chaukidar gets his pay directly from the district authorities, he has in no way to depend upon the village people, and, therefore, holds himself by no means responsible to them for his work. The sense of responsibility gone, he is no longer mindful of his duties. He neglects to properly discharge them, and his negligence and carelessness naturally lead to an increase of crime. There is another reason why there has been of late a recrudescence of crime in the Bengal villages. Formerly, the chaukidar of a particular village was one of its residents, and was therefore interested in the maintenance of peace and order there. Under the new system, the chaukidar of a particular village must be a resident of another village. He feels no very great interest in the maintenance of peace and order in a place where he does not live. It is not

HITAVADI,
Sept. 13th, 1895.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 14th, 1895.

DARSAK,
Sept. 15th, 1895.

also very convenient for the resident of one village to keep watch in another—most probably at a distance of some miles from his place of residence—at all times and in all seasons, in fair weather and foul. There is no one to inspect the work of the village chaukidar, and his sense of responsibility is not very deep. It, therefore, often happens that in foul weather the village chaukidar does not keep his watch or go his rounds, and thus gives thieves and dacoits every opportunity to carry on their nefarious practices with impunity. From the Bengal Government's Police Report, we learn that in the Nadia district alone there are no less than five hundred chaukidars, who do not reside in the villages, where they have to keep watch and maintain peace and order. The district authorities admit that this circumstance is at the root of the inefficiency of the village police. It was these district authorities, however, who enforced the practice of employing as chaukidars, men who are not residents of the particular villages in which they have to serve. We hope this practice will be soon discontinued. The discontinuance of this practice alone will not, however, be sufficient for the purpose of increasing the efficiency of the village police and making it properly discharge its duties. So long as the village chaukidar remains quite independent of the village community, and has no one to inspect and superintend his work, he will not properly discharge his duties. It seems that the district authorities are not altogether ignorant of this fact, and the Inspector-General of Police has proposed to employ circle chaukidars to superintend over the village chaukidars. Such an arrangement may do some good, but will not be sufficient for the purpose of increasing the efficiency of the village police. The proposed measure will make the village chaukidar entirely dependent on the circle chaukidar, and it will be his sole care to keep the latter in humour. The circle chaukidar will not be a superior being, and will not be likely to take greater interest than the village chaukidar in the welfare of the village people. We do not understand why the Government should be so much unwilling to keep the village chaukidar under the control of the village *panchayet*. The village *panchayet* has a stake in the village, and it is his interest to see peace and order maintained there. He will, therefore, be better fitted than the circle chaukidar to conscientiously inspect the work of the village chaukidar, and make him properly discharge his duties.

The town police is not free from the faults and shortcomings which characterise the village police. The town police chiefly consists of Hindustani constables, who are thoroughly unfit for service in the villages. They generally pass their time in idleness. In some places the Government has, with success, employed chaukidars in the town police, and this practice should be made universal.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

CHARU MIHIR,
Sept. 10th, 1895.

10. The villain Bartlett, says the *Charu Mihir* of the 10th September, has been punished, but Rajabala will know no peace of mind so long as DeSouza is not brought to justice.

The Assensole case.

But why talk of her peace of mind? Will the most painful punishment of a hundred such brutes bring back to the poor woman what she has lost? Chastity is the most precious wealth that a woman possesses, but in India she is everywhere being rifled of it by Englishmen. Who can suppress his anger at this?

CHARU MIHIR.

11. The same paper says that Maulvi Ahmed, Deputy Magistrate of

An order of Maulvi Ahmed, Deputy Magistrate of Mymensingh.

Mymensingh, having, on the evidence of many respectable people, withdrawn the charges he had made in a report against Babu Gokul Chandra Chaudhuri on the latter's applying for a license to keep firearms, Babu Gokul Chandra applied to the Deputy Magistrate for the name of the party who had supplied the officer with the false information against him. But the Deputy Magistrate passed the following order on the petition:—

"This is an extraordinary petition. A Magistrate on tour receives certain information against a certain person, and now he is asked to give the source of information. It is most absurd. The applicant has proved a source of trouble to many persons and recently there have been several big thefts and robberies in the neighbourhood. There have been two murders. It has come to ears, while in camp, that the gentleman in question rather takes under his protection these men. But how far that is true, I do not know. I know he is against the

police of that quarter. Though I recommended a license to him on taking evidence, but I have heard that the evidence was heavily paid for. There would be good grounds for cancelling the license."

It is a wonder how having exculpated Gokul Babu on the best evidence, the Deputy Magistrate could again indirectly bring a charge of implication in theft, dacoity and murder against the gentleman. In the next breath he says that he cannot vouch for the truth of the reports he has heard. Why, then, a gentleman and a Judicial officer, as he is, should he give credence to baseless reports, and on their strength make imputations against the character of a gentleman? Is not such conduct detestable? On one occasion before, one of his so-called reports was proved to be nothing more than the fabrication of his brain. The order, which has been published above, shows that the Deputy Magistrate is a mere tool in the hands of the police, or how could he call witnesses, whom he had before considered respectable, as bought for money? But such a fickle man is not fit to act as a Judicial officer.

12. The *Sahachar* of the 11th September says that the people of India, both Hindu and Musalman, ought to be grateful to the Chief Justice for his decision in the case against the ticket collector, Bartlett. It may be asked, why people should be grateful to the Chief Justice for doing his duty. The answer is that everybody does not possess the power of administering justice impartially which Sir Comer Petheram has shown in the above case, and that is why he deserves the thanks of the public. The depositions given in the Magistrate's Court were enough to convince everybody of the guilt of the accused. Nevertheless, the European jury acquitted them. And if there had been no High Court and if the Sessions Judge had not referred the case to that Court, the man Bartlett would have escaped scotfree. The Sessions Judge, too, deserves praise for his clear sightedness.

We hope that DeSouza will soon be arrested and sent up for trial. The native public is anxious that Government should take steps for his early arrest. The horrible outrage committed upon Rajabala cannot be redressed. She will never regain what she has lost—her chastity, the costliest treasure a Hindu woman possesses and which Rajabala has lost for no fault of her own. The punishment of her ravishers will not restore her to society. But if the Government carries out the Chief Justice's suggestions, she will have at least this consolation in the midst of her desolation that she has been the means of saving many of her Hindu and Muhammadan sisters from outrages similar to that which was committed upon her. After this case, Government should replace European ticket collectors on Indian Railways by natives.

13. The *Banganivasi* of the 13th September finds fault with the Government for having appointed Mr. Abdur Rahman to the Fifth Judgeship of the Calcutta Small Cause Court. Mr. Abdur Rahman is the son of the late lamented Nawab Abdul Latif. He is a barrister of about fifteen years' standing, and there can, therefore, be no objection to his appointment on the score of ability. That he is a Musalman is not also an objection to his appointment. But the fact is that it has long been a practice to recruit Calcutta Small Cause Court Judges from among the Sub-Judges who are a deserving class of public officials and look upon the Judgeship of the Calcutta Small Cause Court as the highest reward for their meritorious services. There is no reason why a departure should be made in favour of Mr. Abdur Rahman, especially as it cannot be said that the Sub-Judges who have hitherto been appointed to Calcutta Small Cause Court Judgeships have not satisfactorily discharged their duties.

14. The same paper says that there is a post vacant in the office of Rai Durgagati Banerji, Bahadur, Excise Superintendent, Calcutta, to which is attached a monthly pay of Rs. 200; together with a personal allowance of Rs. 50 a month. The post has been advertised, but the applicant for the post is required to be a European or a Eurasian. Why should it be so? Are the duties attached to the post such as cannot be performed by a native? There is evidently the influence of a superior European official at work here. The matter should form the subject of an interpellation in the Legislative Council. It should be said, however, in justice to the Government that it alone is not to

SAHACHAR,
Sept. 11th, 1895.

BANGANIVASI,
Sept. 13th, 1895.

BANGANIVASI.

The High Court's decision in the Assensole case.

The new Judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court.

The vacant post in the Calcutta Excise Superintendent's office.

blame for partiality to Europeans. Even in a public body like the Calcutta Municipality where most of the Commissioners are native, a European was appointed to the post of the Engineer while the superior claims of a native Engineer, Rai Madhab Chandra Rai, Bahadur, were ignored. While this is the state of things in the Calcutta Municipality, one can well imagine how matters stand in the District Boards and mufassal municipalities.

BANGANIVASI,
Sept. 13th, 1895.

15. The same paper has also the following:—

The Lieutenant-Governor and
severity of sentences.

It is said that the Lieutenant-Governor while in Muzaffarpur censured Maulvi Ashfuq Hossain, a local Deputy Magistrate, for sentencing a man convicted of theft to simple instead of rigorous imprisonment. It is well known that Sir Charles Elliott likes to see severity in a Magistrate, and it has become almost notorious that Magistrates who are severe towards accused persons have the best chance of promotion under his rule. We do not, however, find anything wrong in the conduct of the Deputy Magistrate who has unfortunately incurred the displeasure of the Lieutenant-Governor. The law gives a Magistrate the discretion of passing a sentence of rigorous or of simple imprisonment upon an accused person, and there is no reason to suppose that in the present instance the Magistrate did not properly exercise his discretion. The Magistrate came to his decision after carefully examining the witnesses and giving due weight to the evidence before him. And how could the Lieutenant-Governor by merely going through the file say that the Magistrate was wrong, and there was a miscarriage of justice? Is it possible that an interested person, one who may be unfavourably disposed towards the Maulvi, has poisoned the Lieutenant-Governor's mind against him?

The fact is that by censuring the Deputy Magistrate of Muzaffarpur, the Lieutenant-Governor has set a bad example to the Indian Magistrates. They will no longer dare consult their conscience and convictions in passing sentence upon an accused person. For among the Indian Magistrates, there are very few who have the courage to defy a Lieutenant-Governor, and sacrifice their own interests at the altar of justice and conscience. The Lieutenant-Governor's unfavourable remarks on the Maulvi must have by this time travelled far and wide, and thoroughly disheartened and demoralised the Indian Magistracy, who will henceforth try their best to consult the wishes of the Lieutenant-Governor, rather than the dictates of their conscience in administering justice. We have surely fallen upon evil times. The Magistrates are growing more and more fond of passing severe sentences upon accused persons. Only the other day, two Honorary Presidency Magistrates sent two boys of tender years to jail for a year for having committed a trivial theft. All this does not speak well for the good of the country. Servants naturally follow their master's example, and it is not at all surprising that under Sir Charles Elliott's rule, the Magistrates should pass severe sentences on the accused. But who is there to listen to our complaint? Our cry is a cry in the wilderness. The Lieutenant-Governor's policy is at fault. If he ever thinks it necessary to take a Magistrate to task for passing a light sentence on an accused person, he ought to do this in private, and ought not to allow his rebuke or censure to reach the ears of a third person.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 13th, 1895.

16. The *Hitavadi* of the 13th September takes the following instance of magisterial vagary from the *Charu Mihir*:—

Maulvi Ahmed, Deputy Magistrate of Mymensingh.

Babu Gokul Chandra Chaudhuri, a respectable *taluqdar* of village Poari, within the Fulpur police-station, within the Mymensingh district, applied for permission to purchase two guns. Maulvi Ahmed, the Deputy Magistrate in charge, wrote on this application that he had learnt by enquiries in the neighbourhood of Poari that the applicant was a man of litigious habits, and that he was also suspected to be a receiver of stolen goods. Offended at this unjust aspersion upon his character, Gokul Babu protested against the Deputy Magistrate's remarks and requested him to take evidence regarding his character. Depositions were therefore taken of many respectable witnesses, and the Maulvi had to retract his offensive remarks and report that he had been misinformed about Gokul Babu's character, and that the depositions which he had taken, all went to show that the Babu was a respectable *taluqdar*.

May we not ask the Maulvi why he cast such unjust aspersions upon the character of a gentleman? If he, a judicial officer, is not aware how serious an offence it is to cast such aspersions upon the character of a respectable man, the public should take steps to bring him to his senses. The result of these two contradictory reports has been that the Magistrate, unable to decide which of the two stories to believe, has not yet passed orders for issue of licenses. Will this case attract the notice of the Bengal Government?

17. The same paper says that Mr. Norris' retirement has made the writer

Mr. Justice Norris' retirement.

both glad and sorry,—glad, because the High Court is delivered from his eccentricities; sorry, because, with all his failings, he was a man with a heart and knew no distinction of black and white, and he retires for ill-health, and is not expected to live long. The writer heartily prays that Mr. Norris may recover his health in his native land.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 13th, 1895.

18. The *Sanjivani* of the 14th September has the following on the judgment of the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court in the Rajabala case:—

The Rajabala case in the Calcutta High Court.

Let Bengal rejoice. The man who outraged the chastity of a Hindu woman is now confined in jail. Virtue has at last triumphed over vice. The heart-rending tale of Rajabala Dasi's shame and distress spread consternation in every town and village in Bengal. The people of Bengal were filled with shame and indignation when the tea-planter Webb violated the chastity of the poor cooly woman Sukurmani. Twelve years after, they felt as if stung by a scorpion when four Europeans committed rape upon a poor helpless girl of fifteen. Many men, old and young, came to us every day and enquired what we were doing to have justice done to the injured woman. Many wrote us stirring letters, calling upon us to bravely fight out her case in the High Court and promising to beg from door to door collecting subscriptions for the purpose. Many more wrote to us, promising subscription for the same purpose. Let these people now thank the Government for the interest it has taken in the case. It spared no pains and grudged no expense to get justice done to the injured girl, and justice has at last been done to her. Mr. P. L. Roy, the Officiating Legal Remembrancer, was advised by the Government to represent the poor girl and argue her case before Mr. Justice Banerji and Mr. Justice Macpherson. Mr. Roy conducted the case with remarkable ability, with great spirit, and in a feeling manner. It seemed as if he felt for the unfortunate girl as he would do for his daughter or sister, and was determined to have her wrong redressed. Mr. Justice Macpherson thought—why we cannot say—that Rajabala was a girl without a character, and that the accused had her free consent in having carnal connection with her. The fact that Rajabala had no objection in accompanying some of the accused, a distance of five or six hundred yards apparently led Mr. Justice Macpherson to come to the above conclusion. He would have thought otherwise if he had given a moment's consideration to the fact that a low-caste Hindu girl of fifteen was quite helpless in the hands of four Europeans, and that she obeyed them simply out of fear. Mr. Justice Banerji, however, showed great courage and independence in differing from his European colleague, for which his countrymen will ever remain grateful to him.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 14th, 1895.

The two Judges having differed in opinion, the case was referred to the Chief Justice. The Government engaged the services of Mr. Jackson, who argued the case with his usual ability. We cannot thank the Government adequately for thus actively interesting itself in the case. The Chief Justice believed the story of Rajabala, sentenced Bartlett to rigorous imprisonment for five years, and was of opinion that all the four accused were guilty of the offence with which they were charged. In the face of this opinion of the Chief Justice of the highest tribunal in the land, the Government will do well to move the High Court for the retrial of the accused, who were acquitted by the Sessions Judge. The Government has already done much in getting justice done to Rajabala. Let it now complete what it has begun.

19. The same paper disapproves of the appointment of Mr. Abdur

The new Judge in the Calcutta Small Cause Court.

Rahman to the Fifth Judgeship of the Calcutta Small Cause Court. A Judgeship of the Calcutta Small Cause Court is a prize post for the Munsifs and Sub-Judges who look

SANJIVANI.

forward to this post as the highest object of their ambition. But if these posts are filled by barristers, a deserving class of officials will lose all chances of attaining the highest aim of their life. Was it, moreover, quite advisable to appoint a new-fledged barrister, having no experience of the administration of justice, to such a responsible post as the Judgeship of the Calcutta Small Cause Court?

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 14th, 1895.

20. The *Bangavasi* of the 14th September observes that by convicting Bartlett and sentencing him to rigorous imprisonment for five years, the Chief Justice has maintained the dignity of British justice in India.

BANGAVASI.

21. Referring to the judgment of the Chief Justice in the case of Iswari Prasad, the same paper observes that, although the accused has been honorably acquitted, the expenses incurred by him in defending himself have almost ruined him. The case shows how even an innocent and influential man suffers if he incurs the displeasure of the executive authorities. Iswari Prasad had the means to have his case fought out in the High Court, but there are men who, placed in his position, would have had to rot in jail for want of means.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Sept. 14th, 1895.

22. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 14th September expresses satisfaction at the appointment of Mr. Abdur Rahman as the Fifth Judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court. Mr. Rahman has made himself very popular by his able discharge of the duties of a Municipal Commissioner and an Honorary Magistrate.

SOM PRAKASH,
Sept. 16th, 1895.

23. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash* of the 16th September says that the remarks passed on the conduct of the additional Munsif of Kotalpur in the Bankura district, by a writer in the *Bankura Darpan* of the 1st September, are not well-founded. The said Munsif is amiable, truthful and conscientious. It is unlikely that he should be unnecessarily harsh towards witnesses and litigants who appear before his court. In Kotalpur there is an objectionable practice in force of tutoring witnesses, and it is possible that the Munsif may now and then treat these witnesses with scant courtesy, and even use harsh expression towards them in order to elicit truth. But this is not certainly to be regarded as an objectionable trait in the Munsif's conduct.

The same correspondent also observes that Babu Kanai Lal Basu, Excise Sub-Inspector of Kotalpur, is a very able officer. He has, within a very short time, detected fifteen cases of clandestine distillation of country-wine. The accused in all these cases, excepting two, have been convicted and punished.

(d)—Education.

SAHACHAR,
Sept. 11th, 1895.

24. The *Sahachar* of the 11th September writes as follows:—

We fail to see why the *Hindoo Patriot* should be so angry with Dr. Asutosh Mukherji for allowing himself to be appointed an Examiner in the next D. L. and Honours in Law examination, and why it should advise him to resign the examinership. What has Asu Babu done that the Syndicate should be charged with having committed a wrong act by appointing him as an examiner? It is true, Asu Babu passed the D. L. examination only recently. But was it any fault of his that he passed the examination? To our thinking he is a fit man to be appointed an examiner in the D. L. examination. In learning and intelligence he is not inferior to any other graduate, who has up to this time come out of the University. And, as for his practice at the bar it is already considerable, and is daily flourishing. On the Syndicate, his work has elicited praise from his very enemies. Sir Alfred Croft, who has a unique faculty for business, was displeased at his appointment to the Syndicate on account of his extreme youth. But he, too, took Asu Babu into his good graces when he saw his work. What more is needed to make a perfect examiner? Indeed, the *Hindoo Patriot* has not done well by objecting to Asu Babu's appointment, and not objecting to the appointment of a new-fledged barrister. There is no rule under which a member of the Syndicate is excluded from being appointed an examiner. It has only been the practice of

the Syndicate not to appoint one of its members as such in the lower examinations. But the D. L. examination is an exception. And a departure from the ordinary practice in appointing examiners for it is quite excusable. The writer would request the editor of the *Hindoo Patriot* not to throw obstacles in the way of rising native youths. It is to be hoped that he will reconsider what he has written.

25. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 12th September regrets that Nawab Ahsanulla Khan's scholarship for a Muhammadan student, studying at the Sibpur Engineering College, has this year been awarded to a Brahmo student. The student in question being born of Muhammadan parents bears a Muhammadan name, but he is a thorough Brahmo in faith.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Sept. 12th, 1895.

26. The *Hitavadi* of the 13th September is not in a position to give any reply to the many enquiries that are being made of it regarding Government's decision about the *Manimanjari* beyond repeating the rumour that there will be no decision on the point before January next. This rumour, however, gives rise to various reflections in the writer's mind. The present Director of Public Instruction retires in January next. Is he then unwilling to interfere with the improper action of his protégé on the eve of his departure? The Lieutenant-Governor retires in November next. Does he too shrink from interfering with the action of a Principal whom he has himself raised to that dignity? The last and most hopeful reflection is that Nilmani Babu's extension expires in January next. It is rumoured that the unpopularity which he has earned, and the mischievous arrangements which he has introduced during his short term of office as Principal have made Government determine upon granting him no further extension. The writer does not object to Government's granting Nilmani Babu an extension. What he objects to is that the Sanskrit College should be ruined by the study of the *Manimanjari*.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 13th, 1895.

27. The same paper says that Mr. Griffiths, the Principal of the Presidency College, has found out a means of immortalising himself. He has lately ruled that the carriages of students should never enter the college compounds, no, not even during heavy showers, and that every student, no matter how high his social position, must walk all the way from the college-building to the street. Lately the street and even the college compound were overflowed with rain water. The students asked the Principal for permission to admit their carriages into the college compound, but permission was refused. The students had therefore to wade through water to their carriages. Mr. Tawney, the late Principal, had once his carriage smashed by collision with that of a student, and yet he never thought of making such a rule. Will the Director of Public Instruction enquire into the matter, and save the students from the hands of this arbitrary Principal?

HITAVADI.

28. The *Sanjivani* of the 14th September says that the name of Mr. Dutt's History of India does not appear in the *Calcutta Gazette* for the 11th September in which a notification has been published, announcing the names of the text-books for the University examinations for 1897 and 1898. No text-book on Indian History has as yet been fixed for the Entrance examination for 1897; the name of the text-book selected will, it is said, be notified hereafter. The writer learns from a trustworthy source that some of the European members of the Syndicate are bent upon getting Babu Haraprasad's book selected as a text-book. It will be a disaster to students to let these men have their way. The writer also learns that Mr. Percival, Professor, Presidency College, is revising Babu Haraprasad's book. Still, is it right to select as a text-book the work of a writer, who commits broad and ridiculous mistakes, and violates the cardinal principles of English grammar? Babu Haraprasad has also broached many new theories in his book, and has invented many facts which have no foundation in truth. His book is extremely uninteresting, and is crammed with dry facts, which are sure to overburden the reader's memory. Such a book should never be selected as a text-book. There is another

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 14th, 1895.

Babu Haraprasad Sastri's History
of India in English.

consideration why Mr. Dutt's book should be given a new lease of life for at least another year. The candidates for the Entrance examination for 1897 have already gone through a portion of Mr. Dutt's book, and they will not be able to go through a new book before they appear in the examination. It is expected that the Syndicate will care more for the welfare of the students than for the pecuniary interest of a favoured writer of text-books.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Sept. 14th, 1896.

29. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 14th September publishes the following letter from the Secretary of the Calcutta Muhammadan Union :—

An anti-Muhammadan Deputy Inspector of Schools.

To remove a longstanding want of the Muhammadans of the Northern Division of Calcutta, the B. N. Institution was established in Cornwallis Street some years ago. Two Muhammadan teachers have been appointed in it for the benefit of Muhammadan students, and a room in the school-house has been set apart for their prayers. A few Muhammadan students are also given tuition free of charge.

A short time ago, the school authorities had their school examined by Maulvi Abdul Karim, Assistant Inspector of Schools, with a view of having the institution affiliated to the Calcutta University. The Maulvi submitted a favourable report, but Babu Isan Chandra Ghosh, M.A., Deputy Inspector of Schools, was offended at seeing the report, and raised objections to the affiliation. On the 3rd August last the Head-master, the Secretary, the Superintendent, and the Urdu teacher Maulvi Sarafat Hossein, were going to see Isan Babu on some matter connected with the school, when on the way they met that gentleman. After some talk Isan Babu asked the Secretary :—"Why are you showing so much favour to Muhammadan students?" The Secretary said :—"We are not in favour of race antagonism, and have therefore provided facilities for the education of Muhammadan boys in our school by the appointment of two Muhammadan teachers and by other means." Isan Babu was offended at this reply, and said :—"Do you think Maulvi Abdul Karim's report will enable you to get your school affiliated? I know you are getting the sympathy of the Muhammadan community. But you should know that almost all the Muhammadans of India are descended from the lowest classes of Hindus, and you should abhor them more than you abhor the *chandals* of Jessore and Faridpur, and should avoid their very touch." He also abused the Muhammadans in vile and obscene language, which the correspondent feels ashamed to reproduce. Maulvi Sarafat Hossein wrote a letter to this Union, informing it of what took place at the interview, and regretting that Government's efforts to provide facilities for Muhammadan education should be thus rendered abortive by its own Hindu officers. The Union after satisfying itself of the correctness of the statements made by Maulvi Sarafat Hossein in his letter, has addressed a letter on the subject to the Director of Public Instruction.

On the above letter, the editor remarks as follows :—

A perusal of this letter will convince everybody as to who are the real originators of the quarrels between Hindus and Musalmans. Keeping apart the general Hindu community and the head Babus in the Government offices, does not the conduct of the very officers of the Education Department, who are entrusted with the education, and forming of the character of tender boys, make one desirous to see as few of such men as possible in that department? If the statements contained in the letter be correct, Isan Babu should be removed from the Education Department, or he will probably spoil other officers. Sir Alfred Croft should exclude from his department all men like Isan Babu, who try to foster hatred between Hindus and Musalmans. It is hoped he will carefully enquire into the allegations which are made in the petition which has been submitted to him. The two Muhammadan Associations in Calcutta ought to do everything to get Isan Babu taught a lesson.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Sept. 18th, 1896.

30. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 18th September learns from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* that the Lieutenant-Governor has cancelled the new rules framed by Dr. Bomford, Principal of the Medical College, with a view to persecute the medical students. Sir Alfred Croft has, however, framed similar rules which, it is said, he will try to enforce when Sir Charles Elliott gives up the reins of office, and is succeeded by a new Lieutenant-Governor.

(c)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

31. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 10th September says that in reviewing the budget of the Burdwan Municipality the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division instructed the Municipality to reduce its expenditure on the Municipal school by Rs. 600. But the Commissioner should have known that as the school is maintained entirely by the fees which are collected from the students, supplemented by a Government grant, the Municipality, which does not contribute a cowrie towards its maintenance, cannot have the power to curtail its expenditure. The school fund besides has a good surplus to its credit. If the Commissioner knew these facts, he would not certainly make the order referred to.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Sept. 10th, 1895.

32. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 12th September says that Babu Gopal Lal Mitra, Vice-Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality, should be retained in his post for a few years more. He has not yet grown so old as to be disqualified for service. He still retains his natural energy for work, and is in a position to discharge his duties to the satisfaction of the public. Babu Gopal Lal has all along been a staunch friend of the rate-payers, and they will be very glad to see him in his post for a few years more.

SULABH DAINIK,
Sept. 12th, 1895.

33. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 13th September says that Mr. K. C. De, Chairman of the Santipur Municipality, is resolved to ruin the old and famous bazar in Santipur, which is known by the name of *Burra-bazar*. A metalled road passes through this bazar, which has been always recognised as a part of it, and as a property of the zamindars to whom the bazar belongs. Babus Iswara Chandra Ghosal and Mahimchandra Pal, former Sub-divisional Officers of Ranaghat, advised the zamindars to put up gates at the two extremities of the road, and the latter metalled it with their permission. Green-grocers keep vegetables on the margins of that road, and people purchase them standing on the road. One day Mr. De could not drive rapidly along that road on account of people buying and selling on it. Within a short time ten green-grocers were prosecuted for throwing vegetables on that road, and they were fined 10 rupees each by Mr. De. Cases of this nature used to be tried formerly by Honorary Magistrates. It is not easy to see why Mr. De should now try those cases himself. People say that, as Honorary Magistrates inflict fines of only one or two rupees in such cases, there is no hope of the bazar being broken up by the trial of such cases by them, and Mr. De therefore takes up the trial of such cases himself. Some shop-keepers have been fined 10 rupees each for allowing their thatches to project over the above road, and others have clipped their thatches having been threatened, it is said, with prosecution by Mr. De himself. The bazar is, therefore, now nearly broken up, and only half the number of sellers now sell vegetables in a narrow space. The proprietors of the bazar, therefore, propose to sue the municipality for damages, and such a suit will be very prejudicial to the interests of the rate-payers, as it will lead to the waste of municipal money on an unnecessary suit.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 13th, 1895.

Mr. De seems to have had an impression that a man offends against the municipal bye laws, even if he eases himself at a great distance from a public road, and several persons were therefore apprehended for that offence. But he seems to have been since convinced of his error by a gentleman.

Mr. De fines hackney-carriage drivers 20 to 25 rupees if the least sore is found on the bodies of their horses. Such a fine is almost ruinous to these poor people, whose net income per day does not exceed four annas. The drivers have therefore resolved to leave Santipur in a body.

Like his predecessor, Babu Nabinchandra Sen, Mr. De is in the habit of rowing in the municipal tank, Chor Pukur, to the great inconvenience of the poor, but respectable women, who are to be found fetching water from it at all hours of the day.

34. The *Bangavasi* of the 14th September recommends Babu Nilambar Mukharji, late Prime Minister of the Kashmere State, for the Vice-Chairmanship of the Calcutta Municipality. Babu Nilambar Mukharji is in every way fit for the post.

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 14th, 1895.

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 14th, 1895.

35. The same paper observes that a village union has been established in Gaila in the Barisal district. The villagers objected to the formation of the union there, and submitted an application to Government, praying for its abolition, but their application has been rejected. This is thrusting Local Self-Government upon unwilling people. And this is the Self-Government of which the English-educated are such admirers. Had they the faculty to see beneath the surface of things, they would think otherwise.

SULABH DAINIK,
Sept. 14th, 1895.

36. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 14th September says that the health of Calcutta has been exceptionally bad since last winter. First, there was a great prevalence of small-pox, next there was a great prevalence of cholera, and now it is fever that rages in the town. The kind of fever that is just now prevalent in the town is carrying off its victims in three or four days. It is much to be regretted that the Principal of the Calcutta Medical College and the Health Officer of Calcutta should do nothing to ascertain the causes of this heavy mortality from fever and to put a stop to its ravages.

The ill-health of Calcutta is due to the dirty condition of the bustees (from which all epidemics spread) and lanes as well as of some roads, to the objectionable situation of privies in premises, to the adulteration of food, and to the overcrowding of the town.

DARSAK,
Sept. 15th, 1895.

37. The *Darsak* of the 15th September says that Mr. Romesh Chunder Dutt, while Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, drafted a resolution in which he made favourable remarks on the Burdwan District Boards, observing that their satisfactory working was a proof that Local Self-Government was bearing good fruit in this country, and that the non-official members of these boards were a valuable acquisition to the Government. Mr. Bourdillon, the present Commissioner, holds, however, a different opinion, and observes that it is a matter of doubt whether the District Boards have done any very great good to the Government. Mr. Bourdillon does not seem to have very strong reasons for his unfavourable remarks on the District Boards. He even admits that the District Boards have done some good, but that is no more than what could be expected under the old system. This is as much as to say that the Government derives some amount of benefit from the District Boards. There can also be no denying the fact that the Government officials are relieved of a portion of their burden of work by these useful municipal bodies. The present Commissioner of the Burdwan division does not appear to be an admirer of Local Self-Government, and it does not certainly speak well for that system in Bengal that he is going to be the Municipal Secretary of the new Lieutenant Governor of Bengal.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Sept. 12th, 1895.

38. Referring to the railway resolution recently issued by the Government of India, the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 12th September observes that it will serve to remove many of the inconveniences suffered by the passengers travelling in third class carriages on Indian Railways. Something is better than nothing. And although the new resolution does not propose to remove all the crying wants of the third class passengers, it is welcome to them as a step taken in that direction.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 13th, 1895.

39. The *Hitavadi* of the 13th September says :—
We alone have, within the short space of one year, brought several instances of the misconduct of railway employés towards female passengers to the notice of the railway authorities. Laldi Prasad entered a female compartment, and for this he was dismissed as well as punished in a law court. Muhammad Mohsein touched the breast of a female passenger, and was dismissed. Jogendra Nath Basu was twice guilty of the same offence, and was punished with dismissal. The Guard Blake attempted to violate the chastity of a coolie woman, for which he was punished in a law court, but only censured departmentally. Last of all there was the Rajabala case, everybody concerned in which has been dismissed.

It would be a mistake to suppose that instances of such improper behaviour towards female passengers are rare. Many women pocket their insult as best they may, without choosing to give publicity to the occurrence. Others make a loud clamour at first, but afterwards refuse to give out their names and addresses. The guardians of insulted women, too, think it better to pocket insults than to publish their own disgrace. In short, not even a hundredth part of the oppressions, that are committed on female passengers on railways ever comes to the notice of the public.

We would therefore recommend that female ticket-collectors be employed on all railways to examine the tickets of female passengers. This arrangement will, in our opinion, be better than even the employment of old men for the same purpose.

40. The same paper heartily thanks Lord Elgin for the order he has given to the authorities of the different railways to introduce reforms with a view to promoting the comfort and convenience of railway passengers, both male and female.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 13th, 1895.

41. The same paper learns from its Jamalpur correspondent that on the 4th September last there were some respectable Hindu women in the train, which reached that station at 9-18 A.M. A young Eurasian ticket-collector of the name of Henry Michael went up to the female passengers, and asked one of them to deliver her ticket. To avoid the touch of the Eurasian, she tried to drop her ticket into Michael's hand. This, however, did not satisfy Michael, who apparently wished to touch her hand. The more Michael, therefore, went near her, the more the woman stepped backward in fear. Finding the woman in this distress, Babu Bholanath Haldar, an Honorary Magistrate of Monghyr, went up to her, took her ticket from her, and offered to give it to Michael. But Michael refused to take her ticket from him. Babu Bholanath then tried to explain to him that a Hindu woman was forbidden by the usage of Hindu society to touch a male stranger. But far from being satisfied with this explanation, Michael used harsh and impertinent language towards him. Babu Bholanath then brought the matter to the notice of the station-master. The station-master told the Babu to report against Michael. A report has therefore been made against him. About a month ago, this Michael insulted a passenger, for which he was fined 20 rupees in a law court, but was not punished departmentally in any way. It is hoped that the Agent of the East Indian Railway will attend to this case of oppression, as he has already kindly done to other cases.

HITAVADI.

42. Referring to the recent railway resolution of the India Government, the *Sanjivani* of the 14th September asks the Governor-General to see that his orders are speedily carried into effect. Goods trains are sometimes used as passenger trains, and passengers are mercilessly packed in them. There will be no objection to passengers travelling in goods trains on occasions of urgent necessity, if goods trains are better fitted up for travelling purposes. Otherwise the existing practice should be discontinued.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 14th, 1895.

(h)—General.

43 In noticing the increase in the proceeds of the income-tax, the *Dainik Bharat Mitra* of the 10th September says that the proceeds of the tax will increase year after year, till the poor tax-payers are "milked dry and are overtaken by death." The assessable minimum should be raised to one thousand rupees.

BHARAT MITRA,
Sept. 10th, 1895.

44. The *Dainik Bharat Mitra* of the 13th September says that English officials being always highhanded towards the Indian zamindars, the latter are in too great awe of the former. The zamindars now-a-days respect the officials' chaprasis more than they respect their own priests. They look upon a Magistrate and a Commissioner as their family gods. Their houses are always ready for the reception of the English officials of the station, but still they fail to secure the favour of those functionaries.

DAINIK BHARAT
MITRA,
Sept. 13th, 1895.

The Surya Kanta and Iswari Prasad cases are good instances of the vindictive feeling with which officials sometimes pursue native zamindars.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 13th, 1895.

45. The *Hitavadi* of the 13th September considers the apprehension, expressed by the Commissioner of the Presidency Division in his Administration Report, groundless that the seditious and malignant misrepresentations of the native press may lead the discontented among the people to believe that the British Government is their enemy. Both the writers and readers of newspapers know that the sufferings of the Indian people will know no bounds if the English leave this country, and it is only from a desire for the stability of British rule that the writers in the native press point out the failings of the officials. Though not particularly well-disposed towards the *Bangavasi*, the writer cannot help protesting against the damaging and unjust remark of the Presidency Commissioner, that the circulation of that paper is chiefly confined "among the shop-keepers, and the others of the lower class who know a little of reading and writing."

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

AL PUNCH,
Aug. 22nd, 1895.

46. *Al Punch* of the 22nd August says that most of the provisions of the Pilgrim Ships Bill are unnecessary, and some of its provisions should be altered. The Bill should not be hurried through the Council.

GENERAL AND
GAUHARI ASFI,
Sept., 8th, 1895.

47. The *General and Gauhari Asfi* of the 8th September says that, unless some alterations are made in the Pilgrim Ships Bill, the certifying medical officers will have too much power vested in them. Hardly a single ship will be able to fulfil the condition in section 14. There is no provision in the Bill for the supply of water to the pilgrims when they will be under quarantine in Kamaran, the salt water of the place being quite unfit for drinking purposes. As for the supply of food we agree in the opinion given by Khan Bahadur Abdul Jubbar, and the authorities ought to accept it. Our last prayer is that the authorities will be pleased to abolish the quarantine system in Kamaran island.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Sept. 10th, 1895.

48. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 10th September says that it must be right to punish pleaders and mukhtars if they do anything wrong, but any undue interference with their independence will be a serious mischief done to society. The Legal Practitioners' Act Amendment Bill, however, will, if passed, involve such an interference by placing pleaders and mukhtars in perpetual fear of the courts, which will have it in their power to punish them on the smallest provocation. Many *Hakims* are known to be anxious to have the smallest opportunity of harassing pleaders and mukhtars. And if they are entrusted with the power of punishing pleaders and mukhtars, the latter will not dare to contradict them or point out their errors, and that will prejudice suitors.

There can be no particular objection in making it punishable, as the Bill proposes to do, for a pleader or mukhtar to take instructions from a *dalal*. But it will be a hard provision of the law to throw upon pleaders and mukhtars, the burden of proving that a man is not a *dalal* or law-tout, or is not known to them as such. The Bill will have pleaders and mukhtars take instructions from none except parties or their servants or their recognised agents. But this provision will inconvenience suitors, and especially those illiterate mufassal people, who do not know how to conduct cases or instruct their legal advisers. It ought to be remembered that such people generally employ the man who is known as the smartest man in the village or its neighbourhood to instruct their pleaders and mukhtars, and to conduct their cases. And the man is remunerated for his labour by fees from the villagers, by whom his services are engaged, and he not unoften also defrauds pleaders and mukhtars of portions of their fees. But, for all that, his services are indispensable to the villagers.

According to Sir Alexander Miller, the object of his Bill is to put a stop to the practice of law-touting, which cannot be effectually done by the law in existence. But the Hon'ble member should know that, however stringent the law on the subject may be made, the practice can not be fully checked. How, for instance, will the law bring under its purview law-touts, who transact business in the private residence of pleaders and mukhtars? The Bill will not therefore, it is clear, be successful in stopping the practice, but will only

constitute an instrument for harassing pleaders and mukhtars, and ought not, therefore, to be passed.

49. The *Charu Mihir* of the 10th September has the following:—

The Jury Bill and the Legal Practitioners' Act Amendment Bill.

The people of India found no difficulty in discovering the real nature of the attack which Sir Charles Elliott made against the Jury system, and were, therefore, able to enlist on their side the sympathy of the British public. But the consequences which Sir Alexander Miller's Jury Bill will produce will not be so easily realised, and that makes the proposed measure so much the more alarming. But it is to be asked, why are the English rulers unnecessarily so hard upon their subject people? Can they not do anything they like in spite of any amount of protest on the part of the people? It is probable that they have chosen the present opportunity to introduce this Bill, because there is not, just at this moment, a single voice to be raised against them in Parliament.

CHARU MIHIR,
Sept. 10th, 1895.

When the Bill is passed, jurymen will be worried with questions by the Judge. And where is the gentleman who will hear this patiently or will like to be summoned as a juror? How many jurors, again, will be able to answer the questions of the Judge? The Bill also empowers the Judge to refer to the High Court any matter on which he differs from the jury.

The radical change proposed in the Jury system will no doubt call forth protests from one end of the country to the other. But the Legal Practitioners' Act Amendment Bill, though it will produce consequences not less serious than the Jury Bill, will not probably attract so much attention, because its provisions will not effect such a sudden and violent change as those proposed by the Jury Bill.

The explanations, which have been annexed to the first and third sections of the Legal Practitioners' Act Amendment Bill, will beset the profession of pleaders, mukhtars and revenue agents with danger. No definition of a *dalai* or low-tout being given in the Bill, and the burden of proof that a certain person is not a *dalai* being thrown upon the accused pleader, mukhtar or revenue agent, the latter will have a very hard time of it in proving themselves innocent of an undefined offence. These sections of the bill will enable malicious touts and judicial officers having a grudge against any pleader or mukhtar to take their revenge upon him.

The second change proposed in the Bill will do even greater mischief. Under the existing law, the High Court alone has the power to dismiss a pleader or mukhtar, and the Board of Revenue alone has the power to dismiss a revenue agent. The Bill proposes to extend these powers to District Judges and Commissioners of Divisions. It is clear that when this provision will be passed into law, it will be impossible for pleaders, mukhtars and revenue agents to look solely to the interests of their employers without caring for the pleasure or displeasure of the Judges and Magistrates who, now-a-days, are generally hot-blooded young civilians without maturity of judgment or understanding. The pleaders in this country discharge the double function of the barrister and the attorney in England, but do not enjoy the smallest particle of the independence, which it is the privilege of English barristers to enjoy. And would it be right to curtail even their small measure of independence by keeping a Damocle's sword constantly hanging over their heads? The High Court and the Board of Revenue have not been proved incompetent to discharge the functions hitherto vested in them.

Whatever Sir Alexander Miller's object in introducing the Bill may be, there is not the smallest doubt that, if passed, it will increase the powers of the executive; and instead of suppressing law-touts, will curtail the liberties of pleaders, mukhtars and revenue agents. But any curtailment of the liberties of the legal profession, whose members stand in the front rank of those who represent the nation's courage, energy, and independence, will be an obstacle placed upon the path of national progress. It is therefore necessary that the people should strongly protest against the measure.

50. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 11th September has the following on the Jury Bill:—

The Jury Bill.

Why adopt this crooked policy? The Lieutenant-Governor made no secret of his motive in issuing the Jury notification; but

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Sept. 11th, 1895.

here is an attempt going to be made to revolutionise the Jury system under cover of amending the Criminal Procedure Code. Is there nothing to prevent the danger? It is said that in amending the Jury sections of the Criminal Procedure Code, the Government is only giving effect to the recommendations of the Jury Commission. But the Jury Commission distinctly expressed itself against anything like the proposed amendment being done to reform the Jury system. We hope that the members of the Jury Commission will not fail to object to the proposed amendment of the Jury Law, and the Hon'ble Judges of the High Courts will decline to be honoured in the way proposed in the Bill. It will now be patent to all how the authorities try to serve their own purpose in the name of passing laws for the promotion of the people's welfare. In order to stop the mouth of the public, the authorities are trying to make them believe that the proposed measure finds support in the recommendations of the Jury Commission. But Sir Alexander Miller is sadly mistaken if he thinks that all men are blind, and that no one will read the report of the Jury Commission in order to ascertain the correctness of his statement. Let the public be up and doing. Let there be carried on as strong an agitation against the Jury Bill as there was against the Jury notification. Let the elected members of the Legislative Council be put on their guard, and let all the non-official members come to the help of the people. If the authorities are to do everything they like, why have the farce of an election of members for the Legislative Councils? If the opinion of the public is never to be respected, what is the use of asking their opinion at all? There should, therefore, be agitation throughout the length and breadth of the country; there should be protest meetings held and representations made to the Supreme Legislative Council. The Jury notification agitation has taught us how to agitate in order to succeed. The non-official Europeans in this country should also make common cause with natives. Their interests are in this case involved with their native fellow subjects.

SAHACHAR,
Sept. 11th, 1895.

51. The *Sahachar* of the 11th September has the following:—

The Jury Bill.

The argument by which Sir Alexander Miller has attempted to prove the necessity of a change in the Jury Law is quite erroneous, and would not have been used if the Law Member had carefully read the report of the Jury Commission, upon whose recommendations he claims to have based his Bill. He holds that failure of justice frequently occurs from the inability of native jurors to give impartial verdicts, and he would have the public believe that this view is shared by the Jury Commission. But every body knows that the Jury Commission, after a careful investigation and discussion, pronounced the verdicts of native jurors as being usually impartial and upright. The Commission carefully read all the reports on the working of the Jury system since its introduction in 1856, and came to the conclusion that the verdicts of native jurors are never vitiated by any inherent defect in the nature of such jurors. The Commission held that failure of justice in Jury trial occurred, not in consequence of any fault of the jurors, but because young and inexperienced Sessions Judges failed to properly summarise the evidence to the Jury. It therefore impressed upon the Government the necessity of posting none but experienced Judges to districts in which the Jury system prevailed.

Another fruitful source of miscarriage of justice in Jury cases is the improper manner in which the police get up evidence. The Jury cannot certainly be blamed for not giving verdicts which are not warranted by the evidence.

It is clear that Sir Alexander Miller has thrown the blame which ought to attach to bad Judges and a bad police upon native jurors, and has thus made out a plausible case for curtailing the Jury system. The Jury Commission never recommended any curtailment of it. The working of the system will be faulty so long as Government does not listen to the Commission's advice of sending none but experienced Judges to Jury districts, and so long as it does not thoroughly reform the police. Sir Charles Elliott's ill-advised action, if not reversed, would have affected the Lower Provinces alone, but Sir Alexander Miller's Jury Bill, if passed, will strike a blow at the administration of criminal justice all over India. The Hon'ble Member should therefore reconsider what he is going to do.

52. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 12th September observes

The Jury Bill.

that in the course of his speech introducing the Jury Bill, Sir Alexander Miller said that the proposed amendments were passed upon the recommendations of the Jury Commission of 1892. But did not the Jury Commission recommend an extension of the Jury system to the districts where it did not prevail?

DARUSSALTANAT AND
URDU GUIDE,
Sept. 12th, 1895.

53. The *Samay* of the 13th September observes that the proposed amend-

The Legal Practitioners' Act
Amendment Bill.

ment of the Legal Practitioners' Act is very likely to deal a death-blow to the liberty of the legal practitioners, while the touters will be allowed to carry on their questionable practices without let or hindrance. There is no manner of doubt that the touting nuisance has become almost unbearable. The touter is a clever person. He is full of resources and tactics. His insinuating manners, his smooth tongue and his artfulness soon make his power felt by an unsuspecting litigant. But that is not all. The touter is a very clever hand in manufacturing cases, and it is owing to his inventive faculty that the spirit of litigation is growing so rapidly in the land. Attempts have been made now and then to put down the touting nuisance. Both Mr. Buckland, when he was Magistrate of Howrah, and Mr. Grierson, the present Magistrate of that district, tried to check the growth of the evil by making out lists of touters, and ordering the police to keep them out of the court premises. But all these attempts were in vain. The touters gave up their profession in public, but carried it on all the same in private. And the place of the old and notorious touters came to be occupied by new ones, not known to the police. The High Court also held that the business generally transacted by the touters was not such as could be held punishable by law. And so the police and the Magistrates were foiled, and the touters—the all-powerful touters—were left undisputed masters of the situation.

SAMAY,
Sept. 13th, 1895.

The new Bill proposes to put down the touting nuisance not by putting down touters, but by restricting the liberty and independence of legal practitioners. The all-powerful *dalal* will be allowed full liberty to carry on his profession, but the legal practitioner will be prohibited from having any connection with him. It is true that there are legal practitioners, and legal practitioners and that the touters as a class would not have gained so much ascendancy if all the legal practitioners had made it a point not to encourage them in any way. But it is too much to expect that the touters will be put down simply by preventing mukhtars and pleaders from having any connection with them. Suppose Ram is criminally prosecuted, Ram's father goes to a touter, who tells him to instruct a pleader, while he will do everything necessary for conducting the case. The touter may remain all along present in court, and may perhaps keep up the appearance of one who is greatly interested in the case. The touter will thus be able to maintain his prestige with the litigant, while his presence in court, along with the pleader, may give rise to suspicion, and the Magistrate may become prejudiced against the latter, and may, if he is so inclined, even take him to task. An attempt to put down the touting nuisance will, no doubt, be welcome; but you should put down the nuisance by putting down those who are its source. And the best way to do that would be to prohibit touters from entering the precincts of a court-room, and making the violation of such a rule punishable by law.

54. The *Education Gazette* of the 13th September, quotes the following

The Legal Practitioners' Act
Amendment Bill.

from the *Banganivasi* of the 6th September:—

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
Sept. 13th, 1895.

Now is the turn of mukhtars and pleaders. The Government is bent upon curtailing their liberty. The very reason which prevents the Indian aristocracy from openly taking part in political movements, it is now sought to create in the case of mukhtars and pleaders. The Legal Practitioners' Act is going to be so amended as to make them quite dependent on the favour of Commissioners, Judges, and Magistrates, who, if the proposed amendment is made, will have the power to disbar a pleader or mukhtar. The legal practitioners in this country generally take the lead in all political movements, and it is now thought necessary to keep them in check.

The Editor of the *Education Gazette* makes the following comments on the above:—

It is not impossible for a statesman to think and act in the way suggested by our contemporary. But the people of this country are so loyal and

law-abiding that the Government does not feel the necessity of adopting a narrow and crooked policy in its treatment of them. Has not the touting nuisance grown so very outrageous as to demand a speedy check? The public, of course, has the liberty to help the Government in rooting out the evil in the most harmless way.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 13th, 1895.

55. The *Hitavadi* of the 13th September cannot express itself satisfied with Sir Charles Elliott's decision about the Bhagalpur election. If he had judged the matter in an impartial spirit, he would have seen that the election of Rai Suryyanarayan was desired by the majority of the people of Bhagalpur. It is, indeed, open to Government to elect any man it pleases, but the Lieutenant-Governor should have respected the small elective right that has been conferred upon the people. The Lieutenant-Governor's decision reminds the writer of the king in the grandmother's story, who being unable to decide between the claims of two brothers to their paternal property, solved the difficulty by giving it away to his own brother-in-law.

HITAVADI.

56. The same paper writes as follows:—

The Jury Bill.

Sir Alexander Miller says that the Legal Practitioners' Act of 1879 has failed to check touting, because it is very difficult to prove the fact of the tender or receipt of gratifications for procuring legal business. He therefore proposes that a legal practitioner should be dismissed or suspended, if he accepts legal business through a habitual law-tout. It is always difficult to prove an offence, but that is no reason for so framing the law that anybody and everybody can be easily harassed by it. Then the expression "habitual law-tout" has not been defined in the Bill, and to define the expression as "a person who habitually takes money for procuring legal business" will not lessen the difficulty, for that definition, too, will require evidence about the tender or receipt of money. Again, the burden of proving that a legal practitioner did not know a habitual *dalal* to be such when he accepted legal business from him, has been laid upon him against the cardinal principle of British criminal law, namely, that the burden of proof shall always lie upon the complainant.

We are strongly opposed to this dreadful Bill. Law-touting is very prevalent in England, but no one ventures to propose such a law there. The existing provisions against touting are sufficient, and any addition to their severity will lead to oppression. That touting exists in spite of these provisions, is a fact; but there is no help for it. What offence is there that has been wholly checked by law? Is not wine sold after 9 P.M. in Calcutta? Do not police officers take bribes? Is not Sir Alexander aware of many such acts in violation of the law? Why then this excessive zeal against touting?

Many suspect that the real object of the Jury Bill is not to check touting so much as to destroy the independence of legal practitioners by placing them entirely at the mercy of executive officers. It is the legal practitioners who explain to the people their rights and are at the root of all agitations, and it is therefore sought to break their spirit. However noble Sir Alexander's motives may be in introducing this Bill, the evil apprehended will be sure to happen.

We have shown that this Bill is unnecessary, imperfect, and mischievous, and we hope that Sir Alexander will entitle himself to the gratitude of the public by withdrawing it.

BANGANIVASI,
Sept. 13th, 1895.

57. The *Banganivasi* of the 13th September says that the proposed amendment of section 303 of the Criminal Procedure Code, is calculated to virtually abolish the

The Jury Bill.

the system of trial by jury in this country. The duties of an Indian juror are not very pleasant, and he thinks his task to be a thankless one. He is not paid. His convenience is never consulted. He has often to undergo great trouble and expense in properly discharging his duties. There is no waiting room for the jurors in the mufassal courts, where they are treated with very scant courtesy by the Sessions Judges. They are, moreover, often censured, and sometimes fined if they happen to be late by a few minutes. To these inconveniences and indignities is going to be added the indignity of cross-examination. The majority of Sessions Judges are unfavourably inclined towards the Indian jury, and they will now be given the opportunity of trying their best to put them out of their countenance by subjecting them to a searching cross-examination. The jurors are lay men, and they are sure to

make a sorry figure in the court under the cross-examination of a practised lawyer like a Sessions Judge. No gentlemen, therefore, who has an atom of self respect in him will be willing to serve as a juror. The Jury list will be filled by the names of uneducated and ignorant men, who will bring the whole system into disgrace, and thus pave the way to its virtual abolition.

58. The *Sanjivani* of the 14th September is not satisfied with the decision arrived at by the Lieutenant-Governor in the matter of the Bhagalpur election. The majority of the members of the Bhagalpur District Boards voted for Rai Suryyanarayan Sing Bahadur. But the Lieutenant-Governor has selected neither Mr. Hennessy nor Rai Suryyanarayan, but the Maharaja of Gidhaur, who served the Government as a nominated member of the Legislative Council for the last two years, and was always a pliant tool in the hands of the official members. How can such a man be regarded as the representative of the Bhagalpur people?

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 14th, 1895.

59. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 14th September has been somewhat re-assured by Government's altered attitude in regard to the Pilgrim Ships Bill. It was at first determined that the Bill should not be referred to a Select Committee, but ultimately that resolution was given up. It is now to be hoped that the Select Committee, to which the Bill has been referred, will remember what a responsible task has been laid upon them, and will not, in their anxiety to please Europe, forget what is due to the people, for whom the legislation has been undertaken. The writer would have the following amendments made in the Bill:—

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Sept. 14th, 1895.

- (1) The abolition of the quarantine station at Kamaran, which is an extremely unhealthy place; and a relaxation of the quarantine system in the case of Indian pilgrims.
- (2) The continuance of the existing arrangement for collecting the quarantine tax by Turkish officers. The arrangement proposed in the Bill to have the tax collected by shipowners before starting on the voyage will benefit no party, but will enable the shipowners to raise their fares and to misappropriate portions of the tax collections. Besides, how does the Government mean to guarantee to the Turkish Government that it is paid the full amount of the tax due to it from the passengers on board a ship? The Turkish officials often remit the tax on poor pilgrims, but the shipowners will not certainly do that.
- (3) The exemption of *pardanishin* ladies from examination by the certifying medical officer.

The Government ought to accept these suggestions, for if it does not and, in obedience to the instructions of the Secretary of State and the Paris Conference, passes the Bill in its present form, it will itself have to suffer for the consequences.

60. The *Darsak* of the 15th September is not satisfied with the manner in which the Lieutenant-Governor has solved the Bhagalpur election problem. The Maharaja of Gidhaur can in no way be regarded as a representative of the Bhagalpur people, and Sir Charles Elliott has not done well in treating Bhagalpur public opinion with such scant courtesy. When there was a failure of election in Dacca, the Lieutenant-Governor got over the difficulty by ordering a fresh election. He ought to have done the same thing in Bhagalpur. It is said that Sir Charles Elliott has departed from his former policy, with a view not to allow the congress party to muster strong in the Legislative Council. His Honour well remembers how hard pressed were the official members of the Council on the occasion of the passing of the Drainage Bill, and that is the reason why he did not like to let the vote of the Bhagalpur member go out of his hands. This conjecture may not be right, but it must be said that the Lieutenant-Governor's conduct in the matter of the Bhagalpur election lends colour to the suspicion.

DARSAK,
Sept. 15th, 1895.

GENERAL AND
GAUHARI ASFI,
Sept. 15th, 1895.

61. The *General and Gauhari Asfi* of the 15th September publishes a cartoon in which the law member of the Viceregal Council is represented as a long-tailed monkey, sitting on the top of a post, who has just thrown to the ground a cuckatoo after having torn off all its feather.

The letter press attached is as follows:—"Miller saheb a *zulumbaz* huntsman has torn off my wings and feathers." There is also this note:—"The object of the Jury Bill is to curtail the Jury system."

DACCA GAZETTE,
Sept. 16th, 1895.

62. The Gordian knot, says the *Dacca Gazette* of the 16th September, has been cut. The Bhagalpur election question has been solved. While Mr. Hennessy and the Rai Bahadur were fighting a drawn battle, the Maharaja of Gidhour has been crowned with the laurels of victory. To translate a homely Bengali phrase, "the tiger and the buffalo were hotly contesting for victory, while the elephant stepped in and won the day." There would have been no reason to blame the Lieutenant-Governor for his decision if the Magistrate of Purnea had not taken an active part in the election proceedings on behalf of Mr. Hennessy, and if the Lieutenant-Governor had not passed over his conduct without a word of censure. It is too much to expect Sir Charles to take an Anglo-Indian Magistrate to task. Nawab Ali Vardi never censured Sirajudowla for his faults, and it is not surprising that that *Nawabi* policy should be revived by the autocrat of Bengal.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

BHARAT MITRA,
Sept. 12th, 1895.

63. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 12th September writes as follows:—

Bhurtpur.

It has been a general saying that the British Government always acts as a friend to its well wishers. But Government's usual practice has been departed from at least in the case of Bhurtpur whose sincere attachment to the Government was clearer than the noon-day sun, but whose ruler has been deposed for no fault of his own. The administration of the State having been carried on mainly by the British resident His Highness had no opportunity of showing his administrative ability. It is therefore a wonder for what misconduct the young Maharaja has been dethroned. The Government's refusal to restore him to his guddi must be characterised as sheer *zulum*.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Sept. 16th, 1895.

64. The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 16th September has the following:—

The British Government and the Amir.

It was thought in British political circles that the Amir would always remain a faithful ally of the British Government, and that it would be a hazardous task for Russia to invade India without the Amir's help. The expectation was grand indeed, but its fulfilment was uncertain. It was with a view to gain this object that the English Government in India pays to the Amir an annual subsidy of 18 lakhs of rupees, and supplies him with arms and ammunition. It was to please the Amir, and to earn his friendship that the British Government sent him an invitation to visit England, and accorded a royal reception to his son. This made the Amir clearly perceive that England would do anything to gratify his ambition. He therefore made a demand upon England to keep an Afghan Ambassador in the English Court. And England's refusal to comply with the request has made His Highness angry. This ill-feeling has probably been aggravated by England's refusal to pay the expenses of the Prince's visit, and has led the Amir to invade Kafiristan.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 14th, 1895.

65. The *Sanjivani* of the 14th September has no faith in the official

The prospects of the crops in Bengal.

report on the prospects of the crops in Bengal, according to which the prospects of the *aus* rice are very hopeful, and a bumper *aman* crop is expected. The writer says that in East Bengal flood has done great injury to the *aman* crop, and in West Bengal *aman* rice has not been sown in many parts owing to want of rain. It is well known how official information about the condition of the people is gathered. The task of collecting such information ultimately devolves upon police constables and *chaukidars*, who manufacture information so as to suit the tastes and prejudices of district authorities, who, they well know, are not very

willing to hear that the people are, or are likely to be, in distress. The Government may induce the English people to believe its garbled information, but the people of this country, who are intimately acquainted with the condition of the people, utterly discredit it.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

66. The *Banganivasi* of the 13th September has the following:—

BANGANIVASI,
Sept. 13th, 1895.

The effects of a blind policy. The British Government is not unaware of the difference which exists between the Hindus and the Musalmans, and it has always sought to take advantage of that difference in creating an ever-widening gulf between the two powerful communities in India, and thus preventing the formation of a powerful political factor in the land. This is the reason why the Government tried to keep the Musalmans away from the Hindus, while the Indian National Congress came into existence. It tried every means to keep the Musalmans in humour. The Hindus came to be disliked, while the Musalmans became the objects of its favour. The latter came to be largely employed in Government service, while the superior claims of the former were deliberately ignored. The Musalmans came to be honoured by the Government more than the Hindus. Even in the courts of justice Hindu criminals were more severely dealt with than the Musalmans, and innocent Hindus were convicted, while guilty Musalmans were acquitted. The Musalmans were given greater facilities of education than the Hindus, and the public officers were enjoined to try their best to raise their social and educational status.

Just at this critical moment took place the memorable cow-killing riots. The Musalmans had all along been unostentatiously slaughtering kine at the time of their festivals without provoking the Hindus into a quarrel. But the new policy of the Government made cow-killing an apple of discord between the two communities and the cause of riots and blood-shed. With the free permission of the executive authorities, the Musalmans began to slaughter cows in public places, and under the very nose of the cow-worshipping Hindus. In some places the Musalmans conducted themselves in such a way as to try the patience of the Hindus to the utmost and at last provoke them into a quarrel. There were thus Hindu-Musalman riots almost all over the country. But the executive authorities mostly arrested the Hindus and imprisoned them by the score. Many innocent Hindus were on that occasion made to rot in jail. Not to speak of the public officers alone, even the heads of Government, the Governor of Bombay and the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal proclaimed to the world that the Musalmans were loyal and the Hindus disloyal. And the Viceroy too agreed in this opinion. The Hindus were everywhere condemned, punished, and persecuted, and the Musalmans belauded, favoured and pampered.

This blind and one-sided policy has now borne its fruit. The spoiled favourites of the Government have now grown so emboldened as to fall upon their benefactors. In Dhulia in the Bombay Presidency the Musalman mob not only attacked the Hindu religious procession, but even assaulted the European Magistrate who escorted it. This incident ought to teach the Government a lesson, and to convince it of the evil of a blind and one-sided policy.

67. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 14th September has the following:—

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Sept. 14th, 1895.

Hindu oppression upon Musalman raiyats.

In enquiring into the cause of the Hindu-Musalman quarrels, some of our worthy contemporaries attribute the blame of originating the quarrels to Government, and some to Muhammadans. But neither of these guesses is correct. The particulars of such quarrels which we have received from the mufassal clearly prove that the Hindus are in some way or other responsible for every such quarrel. In reference to the Hindu-Musalman quarrel in Patul, in the Hooghly district, we proved that the Hindus were at the root of it, and no Hindu newspaper contradicted us. Once more, we have heard that the amla of Babu Devendra Nath Tagore have been committing oppression on the Musalman raiyats of Kamlapur in the Kushtia Subdivision, Nadia, since the last *Bakr-id* festival. We have with us the particulars of these oppressions, and will publish them, if necessary. The place is largely inhabited by Muhammadans. On the occasion of the last *Bakr-id* festival some Musalman

guests sacrificed a large number of cows in the house of the Pir Sahibs of the place. The practice of cow-slaughter has been of long standing with the Musalmans of Kamlapur, and no objection was taken to it till an educated Babu from Calcutta was appointed as the collecting amla by the zamindar. The outburst of feeling which took place here this year was not of a violent character, but there is no denying that the raiyats are being subjected to great oppression. It is to be hoped that the Brahma zamindars of Kamlapur, who are not idolators like the Hindus, will put a stop to these highhanded practices of their amla.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Sept. 16th, 1895.

68. The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 16th September says that, for fear of a Hindu-Musalman riot at Moinpar in Lucknow, in connection with the Hindu procession which was to pass by the musjids there, the Collector summoned a panchayat, consisting of the leading members of the two communities. At the gathering all the Musalmans present, except one, gave the assurance that no harm would be done to the procession by the Musalmans. The Collector, however, in spite of this assurance, forbade the Hindus to carry their procession by the musjids.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR,
CHANDRIKA,
Sept. 16th, 1895.

69. The *Indian Daily News*, observes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 16th September, is in mighty wrath to hear that Mr. Cotton will be appointed to be the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces. Lord Elgin ought to know, says the Anglo-Indian paper, how disastrous it will be to the Government to place the author of *New India* in charge of a province. In other words, the *Indian Daily News* would have one believe that Mr. Cotton, once he becomes the governor of a province, will at once play the Government into the hands of the Indian National Congress, and appoint natives alone to the high posts in the Government service. He will thus let the province go to rack and ruin. Was it owing to the corrective influence of the *Indian Daily News* that Mr. Cotton, as Chief Secretary, could not work disasters in Bengal? If that be the case, the apprehended calamity might be averted by sending the Editor of the *Indian Daily News* to the Central Provinces along with Mr. Cotton. What does he say to that?

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 21st September 1895.